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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

10-15-1955

Justice (Vol. 37, Iss. 20)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XXXVII, No. 20

October 15, 1955

Price 40 Cents

ALL 9C 220X 200
NO. 20 OF A
SERIES
OPTIONAL 220X 200

G.E.B.

- Authorizes Organization Drives
- Orders Average-Minimum Pay Up
- Notes Garment Industry Gains
- Okays Fleet of ILG Healthmobiles



Photo: The New York Times

Speakers

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

George Meany

Mayor Robert F. Wagner

David Dubinsky

Senator Herbert H. Lehman

Robert Moses

Senator Irving M. Ives

Abraham E. Kazan

GALA DEDICATION

of the

ILGWU COOPERATIVE VILLAGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1955

1 P. M.

Grand Street and Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive, Manhattan

ILGWU members are invited

GEB Adopts Vital Wage Policy Declarations

The General Executive Board of the ILGWU of its Atlantic City meeting formulated two important wage policy declarations. The full text of the statements follow:

Guaranteed Annual Wage

The General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, in regular session at Atlantic City, applauds those unions which have successfully made the establishment of a guaranteed annual wage plan, the major objective of their recent contract negotiations. The acceptance of the plans by employers in those industries testifies to the constructiveness and justification of such innovations in those sectors of our economy.

Stabilizing employment and earnings has been a persistent challenge in our industry. As far back as 1919, our union pioneered with a guaranteed employment plan in the city of Cleveland. The following year, our Boston affiliate experimented with such a plan. In 1925, a special commission appointed by New York State's Governor Alfred E. Smith recommended a guaranteed period of employment for the New York cloak industry. Even as late as the Nineteen Forties such a plan was operating in our industry in Philadelphia.

But none of these plans achieved permanence. This was chiefly because the women's garment industry is one consisting of a vast number of small production units, diversified branches, highly styled products and is characterized by the keenest kind of competition.

It is our considered conclusion that in our industry, until now, the most effective means for stabilizing employment and earnings still remains the shortening of the work week. We are happy to report that the mandate of our 1953 Convention that the 35-hour week be incorporated into all of our contracts has been fulfilled in all branches of our industry, in the United States, for 75 per cent of our membership.

Management, considering it a constructive change, cooperated in the plan, and the 35-hour work week was spread without strike or strife. Nothing in the past to supply nor price of the industry's product were consumers affected. The workers in our industry have benefited by this change, which has definitely stabilized their employment and earnings.

The Higher Minimum Wage

In view of the enactment of the higher minimum wage by the Congress of the United States, the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union declares that the decision of the union's 1953 National Convention that new agreements be made to provide union minimums at least 10 cents higher than the legal minimum be continued with the establishment of the \$1 minimum wage. Further, the board directs all ILGWU affiliates that when the new federal minimum goes into effect, all wage rates, including piece rates, be adjusted upward to maintain the approximate relationship between the minimum and average earnings which existed prior to March 1.

Mobile Health Center Fleet to Serve 100,000

A fleet of ILGWU Mobile Health Centers, that will bring health care to the plant gates for approximately 100,000 members of the union, is to be built within the next year and put into service throughout the United States. It was announced by the General Executive Board at its regular meeting early this month.

The board made its decision after hearing a moving report by Mrs. David Dubinsky on the extent of flood damage suffered by the garment industry and its workers during the hurricane season in the northeastern part of the country. Members of the ILGWU were quick to respond to calls for aid and raised a fund of \$117,000.

Flood Service

He devoted special attention to the work of the Northeast Department's Mobile Health Center. For over a year, he said, this "health center on wheels" has been servicing garment workers in Pennsylvania beyond the reach of the department's two regular health centers. During the recent flood disaster, it was placed at the service of the state.

In a three-day mission of mercy, the unit did crucial disease prevention service in remote and hard-to-reach areas of the state. For this work, it received a special citation by Pennsylvania's Gov. George M. Leader.

The mobile center, still showing scratch marks incurred during that special mission, was stationed in Atlantic City, outside the President Hotel where the GEB met, so that members of the board could make a personal inspection of its equipment. This they did after hearing reports on the work of the center by Dr. Albert R. Piv-

ILG Delegation Named To Historic AFL Meet

Eight members of the General Executive Board were designated to attend the historic American Federation of Labor convention and the joint AFL-CIO convention at the beginning of December in New York City. The ILGWU delegation will be composed of Mrs. Dubinsky, First Vice Pres. Luigi Antinoni, and Vice Presidents Isidore Nagler, Charles S. Zimmerman, Morris Blalis, Samuel Ott, Louis Steinberg and Joseph Breslaw.

Berg, his medical supervisor, Fred Siema, consultant, and Vice Pres. David Oingold.

The preliminary plan calls for the building of six units at once and a second group of six before the end of a year. These will be sent into the South, the Southwest, Midwest, West Coast and other areas where ILGWU membership is dispersed.

MIAMI'S SCOREBOARD SHOWS 4 NEW SHOPS CHALKED UP BY UNION

The throttle is open in Miami where, in the path of a continuing ILGWU drive, the union recently closed the organization of four new shops.

According to Samuel J. Macy, manager of the Miami Joint Council, standard agreements were signed with Mel Warshaw, Inc., Glisell, Inc., Florida Undergarment Co. and Preview Fashion, Inc. The drive for a two-day reduction of hours to 35 a week, with workers getting a 6 per cent wage increase and another 6 per cent boost when the 35 hours become effective June 1, 1956. In addition, employers will contribute 4 per cent of payroll to the health and welfare fund.

Participating in negotiations were staffers Louis Weiss and Robert Gluckman.

Macy anticipates "a very good season" and expects a shortage of experienced operators in the trade, which he feels will help the organizing drive now underway.



Northeast Department's Mobile Health Center gets stem-to-stern examination by members of the General Executive Board in Atlantic City. One outcome of meeting was resolution authorizing construction of a dozen more such healthmobiles for use throughout the nation. On steps of mobile are First Vice Pres. Luigi Antinoni, Vice Presidents Isidore Nagler and Philip Kramer. Standing, left to right: Vice Presidents Joseph Breslaw, George Rubin, Jennie Malvey, Bernard Shans, Mrs. Antinoni, Vice Pres. Julius Hochman, Mrs. Shans, Vice Pres. Morris Blalis, Mrs. David Gindgold.

New York Cloak Joint Board Okays Boost in Health, Welfare Benefits

Major improvements in health and welfare benefits for New York cloakmakers were adopted by the Cloak Joint Board at a meeting held Oct. 11, General Manager Isidore Nagler announced.

The cloak chief reported to the joint board delegates and business agents that at a recent session with local managers, he had recommended the following increases:

SICK BENEFITS: a 15 per cent boost, from \$26 to \$30 per week.

HOSPITALIZATION: to be doubled, from \$5 to \$10 a day.

SURGICAL FEES: maximum to be upped from \$50 to \$100.

These recommendations were approved unanimously and enthusiastically by the joint board delegates, who voiced praise for Nagler's efforts in sparking these latest gains. Nagler reminded the delegates

that a month ago, he had presented to the board a solution to the difficult problem of retirement, making it possible for all cloakmakers who are eligible and wish to retire to do so, maintaining the full \$60 monthly pension and the lump sum death benefit payment.

To help solve the retirement problem, it was necessary for the health and welfare fund to assume the \$500 death benefit payment until the retirement fund is able to resume this obligation.

Despite those additional expenditures by the health and welfare fund, a detailed analysis of its operation indicates it is able to expand

benefits to New York cloakmakers, Nagler asserted.

Now that the problem of retirement has been solved, the cloak union is turning its attention to the improvement and extension of health and welfare coverage, Nagler said.

Reporting on the meeting of the union's General Executive Board in Atlantic City, Nagler gave a detailed account of the proceedings.

The board manager also reported that the trustees of the Feinberg Memorial Fund had decided that this year's grant of \$10,000 be given to the Fashion Institute of Technology, to aid its effective work in improving the standing of the apparel industry in New York State.

JUSTICE

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

Office of Publications
591 Summit Ave., Jersey City, N. J.
Editorial Office
1710 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.
Tel. COLUMBUS 5-7000

DAVID DUBINSKY, President
and General Secretary-Treasurer
LEON KTEIN, Editor

Subscription price paid in advance \$10.00 a year

Entered as Second Class matter Feb. 3, 1945, at the Post Office at Jersey City, N. J., under the Act of March 3, 1879.



The Odyssey of a Mercy Mission.

The dramatic three-day journey of the Northeast Department's Mobile Health Center in Pennsylvania during the recent destructive floods is recounted for General Executive Board at its meeting in Atlantic City. ILGWU Pres. David Dubinsky and First Vice Pres. Luigi Antonini (at head of table, right) and assembled vice presidents listen to details from (left to right): Frederick Siema, center's consultant, Dr. Albert R. Feinberg, unit's medical supervisor, and Richard Hughes, technician-driver. Last month, healthmobile received Pennsylvania's Medal of Merit from Governor George M. Leader, in ceremonies at state Capitol in Harrisburg.

GEB Maps Major Organizing Drives; Dubinsky Reports on Garment Gains

All branches of the women's garment industry except cloaks have shown improvement during the first half of 1955, Pres. David Dubinsky told members of the ILGWU General Executive Board meeting in regular session in Atlantic City, October 3-5.

The ILGWU chief based his foundation on reports prepared by vice presidents who are members of the union's affiliates in the industry's key markets and regions of the United States and Canada.

The keynote report set the theme for the four-day meeting. It raised problems and touched on plans that were then transferred to the agenda of the board meeting for further discussion and decision.

Problems and Plans

It dealt, in part, with the present condition of the industry, the union's funds and institutions, the drive for a higher minimum wage for the United States and Puerto Rico. Pres. Dubinsky's trip to Europe to attend the congress of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, his visit to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Institute in Italy and his trip to Israel.

The president also outlined problems pertaining to imports threatening the welfare of union members, surveyed current strikes conducted by the ILGWU and stressed the need for additional organizing drives.

Membership of the ILGWU has remained virtually unchanged. Losses in the older centers have been balanced by gains in the new, more outlying areas and markets. The net decline in the first six months of 1955 has been 1,942 members. Included is a loss (retirees and others) of 3,139 by the New York Chapter and Dress Joint Boards. Many other affiliates in New York City showed gains in membership, as did also the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, the Northeast Department and Montreal.

Total membership of the ILGWU at mid-1955 was 438,908.

Highlight of the past half year, said Pres. Dubinsky, was the part played by the ILGWU in the drive for a higher minimum wage.

He told of his own appearance before the Senate subcommittee headed by Senator Paul Douglas, and praised the presentation made

by Vice Pres. Julius Hochman before the House committee.

Joint Effort

He also noted that in the drive for wage legislation, three other unions had joined with the ILGWU in setting up a pooled operation. A central headquarters was used by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Millinery Workers, Textile Workers and the ILGWU, during the months in which hearings were held on the minimum wage and hundreds of members of these unions came to the meetings.

(Continued on Page 10)

The General Executive Board, meeting in regular session in Atlantic City during the week of Oct. 3, authorized Pres. David Dubinsky to launch widespread organization drives based on the increase in the federal minimum wage to \$1, scheduled to become effective on Mar. 1, 1956. It acted after hearing the president tell in detail the part played by the

ILGWU and other unions in the fight for the higher minimum and to defeat an Administration move to limit the increase from the present 75-cent rate to only 50 cents.

The board adopted a wage policy statement continuing ILGWU policy on union minimums as related to legal minimums. It also decided that the previous relationship of average earnings to minimum pay is to be maintained after Mar. 1 through the upward adjustment of rates.

Shorter Week Effective

Recognizing the widespread interest of workers throughout the

nation in systems of guaranteeing earnings or employment, the board issued a policy declaration in which it pointed out that ILGWU affiliates had experimented with such plans since as early as 1919.

It referred to the nature of the garment industry and concluded that until now shortening the work week has been the most effective means for achieving the stability other unions and industries seek through different approaches to the problem.

The board also heard reports from its own members on market con-

ditions in the industry during the first half of 1955. No report was presented by Vice Presidents Meyer Perlstein and Edward Molinari, both of whom were absent from the sessions due to illness. The reports indicated a general improvement in all branches except cloaks. A number of agreements renewals featured wage increases.

After hearing Pres. Dubinsky's report on ILGWU flood disaster relief activities, including the raising of a \$117,000 fund and use of the Northeast Mobile Health Center for emergency service in Pennsylvania, the board approved building a fleet of such mobile health units for use by the ILGWU in other parts of the country.

Formula for Minimums

The vice presidents also endorsed acceptance of the ILGWU Training Institute on a permanent basis rather than as an experiment.

In the discussion that led up to the formulation of the wage policy statement, Pres. Dubinsky pointed out that the 1953 ILGWU Convention had set a formula for union minimums, which are provided by collective agreements, at 18 cents above the legal minimum. ILGWU policy now continues that formula.

It was also noted that in many markets, the boost in the legal minimum will not affect directly either the contractual minimums or the schedule of piece rates because both of these are considerably above the new, higher legal minimum.

On the other hand, in many instances there is a close relationship between average earnings and the piece and time rates on which they are based, on the one hand, and legal and union minimums on the other.

"Squeaks" on Earnings

In such cases, the upward movement of the minimum pole a "squeak" on all earnings that were less than the new minimum. It also reduces the spread between those earnings and those of workers who

(Continued on Page 10)

"Remember—This is the Floor, Not the Roof!"



G Board Analyzes Garment Market Conditions

Conditions in garment markets throughout the United States and Canada were scrutinized by the ILGWU General Executive Board meeting in Atlantic City Oct. 3-4. Pres. David Dubinsky, in summarizing reports presented by the vice presidents, pointed up the achievements as well as the problems of the various areas.

Following are highlights of the market reports:

New York Cloak

The New York cloak industry continued to suffer from low volume as did all other cloak markets in the country. Production, according to Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, ran behind the previous spring season. Not as many firms went out of business as in the same period of 1954. In 25 months from June 1, 1953 to June 30, 1955, 219 firms went out of business, 132 came into the industry for a net loss of 87 manufacturers and jobbers, some small in size, some large and employing old-timers. In the fall season, coat production was spurred by the introduction of new fabric.

New York Dress

The dress industry has maintained a high degree of stability, according to the report of Vice Pres. Julius Rosenberg. Only slight variations occur in the industry payroll, although a clear shift to high-priced, better-quality dresses is indicated.

Bloomers

Spring and fall seasons for bloomers makers were fair. Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, Local 25 manager, reported. In the last four months, 14 jobbers and their contractors were organized. Preparations have been made for starting negotiations for renewal of the industrial agreement that expires at the end of this year.

Undergarments

All branches of the undergarment and negligee industry are experiencing their best year of recent times, said Vice Pres. Louis Stenberg, Local 65 manager. Requests for overtime work are increasing. Skips, especially, have benefited from style changes, as have also those lines spawned by television and suburban living.

Children's Dress

The children's dress industry continues to be characterized by industrial fluctuations. Vice Pres. Harry Greenberg, manager of Local 31, pointed out that in the last six months, 13 firms employing 170 workers went out of business, but that at the same time, 22 firms started new operations. Under these conditions the union exercises constant vigilance to safeguard standards.

Knitgoods

The knitgoods industry payroll indicates a condition of high volume of production, according to Vice Pres. Louis Nelson, Local 151 manager. The revival of the popularity of the knitted suit has brought with it the revival of a major problem in union control: to insure that garments competing on ensemble but made in different shops are all made in union shops.

Eastern Out-of-Town

The tremendous task of shifting all EOT contracts to the 35-hour week basis has been virtually completed, Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz reported. Seven hundred and eighty-one of 822 shops are on the 35-hour schedule, 40 on the transitional 37½ hour run and only one on 40 hours. Union efforts were decisive in reopening the Miles Beach plant in Middletown and the Royal Undergarment shop in Troy. In both cases, jobs were preserved when new, union firms took over.

Cloak Out-of-Town

The Cloak Out-of-Town Dept. has pushed its organization drives with vigor, although not always with victories assured. Vice Pres. George Rabin told the OREB. Bitterest contest has been with the Elsin firm in Connecticut, where a third election was lost by a vote of 118 to 153. Three years ago, the firm employed 700. Since January 1955, the de-

To Honor Phil Kramer For 30 Years' Service

Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, manager of the Boston Joint Board, will be honored with a dinner on Saturday evening, Oct. 29. The event will mark 30 years of trade union service by Vice Pres. Kramer and is being tendered by the members and officers of the Boston Joint Board. It will be held at the Hotel Bradford in that city.

A delegation from the ILGWU General Executive Board will attend the affair.

parment suffered a net loss of 41 shops and 1,063 members.

Northeast

No definite pattern is evident in the record of volume of production and earnings for shops in the Northeast Department. Vice Pres. David Glingold's report devoted major consideration to the damage done by recent hurricanes and storms in the area and the unique record of service to community and union alike, performed immediately after the disaster by the Department's Mobile Health Center.

Philadelphia

Collections for the various welfare funds of the Philadelphia Dress Joint Board have increased in the first eight months of this year by 11 per cent, reflecting the improved conditions in all branches of the trade. The flow of work has become regular in many plants and a number of firms even plan expansion, Manager William Hess reported. There is a shortage of operators.

Upper South

Most agreements in the Upper South Department, including those in Baltimore, now provide the 35-hour work week. Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler informed the board. In a number of instances, the shift to the shorter work week has been made difficult by the fact that ILGWU shops are occasional neighbors of non-union trades plants under jurisdiction of other unions which work on a 40-hour week. A subsidiary problem has arisen in cases in which workers are members of car pools, by means of which they make the long trip to and from work. A half-hour less of work per day may mean for them merely a half-hour more waiting for the take-home car.

Ohio-Kentucky

The Cleveland cloak industry continues to shrink. Efforts are made

SNOWSUIT WORKERS IN HARRISBURG AREA WIN RAISE, 35 HOURS

Two hundred and fifty snowsuit workers employed at three shops in the Harrisburg, Pa., District start work on a 35-hour week schedule this month under terms of a new contract negotiated by Local 168.

Vice Pres. David Glingold, Northeast Department director, reports. The three shops are Jewel Toys and Little Prince of Columbia and Mart Realty of Little. The previous contract was due to run until March, 1956, according to District Manager George Griffiths, but intensive efforts by him and Field Supervisor Jack Halpern to bring these shops in line with New York union agreements resulted in the early renewal.

Other provisions of the new pact include a 5 per cent wage hike, boosting of the minimum to \$1.10 an hour (18 cents above the incoming new federal wage hour), stabilization of piece rate schedules, Christmas bonuses, seven paid holidays. The benefits extend also to all other company shops and contractors.

The union negotiating committee included Griffiths, Assistant Manager Jack Weiss and shop representatives Regina Nau of Jewel Toys, Ethel Garber of Little Prince and Helen Band of Mart Realty.

The new contract has also given impetus to organizing efforts at Tidy Products of Columbia and Quarryville.

to place displaced cloakmakers in other garment shops. Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler reported. Older cloakmakers can solve the problem in large part through retirement, but younger cloakmakers face the evaporation of their industry. More encouraging are improvements in the condition of the dress industry, expansion in sportswear and the excellence of conditions in the knitgoods industry.

Chicago-Midwest

Vice Pres. Morris Elias presented detailed accounts of negotiations and campaigns throughout the Midwest, including the renewal of contracts now pending covering close to 8,000 workers. Conditions in the Chicago cloak and dress industries have not improved. The cloak industry agreement expires Oct. 15. (Continued on Page 9)

The Canadian Drive Is On!



City-wide demonstration staged this month in Montreal by union members dramatically supported likelihood of country-wide organizational campaign. Members were transported through garment areas by car and cab brigade.



What looks like lunch hour on New York's Seventh Avenue is actually zero hour in Montreal's garment center where a Canadian ILGWU organizational campaign was launched with spirited demonstrations. At right foreground is Samuel Herbst.

Streamlining Seen Cure To Streamline Troubles

Streamlining may well prove to be the cure to the ills of the Streamline Manufacturing Co. of West Frankfort, Ill., according to Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein, Southwest regional director.

Admitting that workers' earnings are low, the firm has claimed high production costs for the thin per envelope. Perlstein persisted in refusing to grant raises to piece workers.

But union representatives, who have been assaying the plant's production methods for some time, are certain they have found the real cause of the company's difficulties: a penny-wise-pound-foolish policy of plant economics that has hampered production and upped costs.

When the union presented its cogent argument at the last conference, the firm finally agreed that maybe a little streamlining wouldn't hurt.

As a result, Marie Pote, an industrial engineer, has been requested to make a plant study and prescribe pills for the company's ills.

New Agreements

Elsewhere in Illinois, the union has signed new agreements with two firms. One pact covers a new contracting shop in Assumption and provides for wage increases, higher minimums and additional wage hikes after Mar. 1, 1956, the date the new federal minimum becomes effective. The pact was pressed last month by Southwest Region staffer Al Goldman.

The second contract was signed with Willshire Garment Co. of Willshire (formerly the Lita Manufacturing Co.). It likewise provides for immediate wage boosts with additional wage adjustments to follow after Mar. 1, 1956. Staffer Jerome Perlstein and a committee of workers led the negotiating.

Giving Working Standards a Push Upward



Presidents and secretaries of all locals affiliated with St. Louis joint boards hold special meeting with Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein (right), Southwest regional director, to discuss improvements sought for St. Louis cloak, dress and embroidery workers in upcoming negotiations for new agreements.

Feil Rehires Fired Unionist; Cleveland Holdout to Vote

A National Labor Relations Board certifying election has been called for Oct. 18 at the Stanley M. Feil Co. of Cleveland, Vice Pres. Nicholas Kirtzman, Ohio-Kentucky regional director, reports. Feil, a 30-year holdout against unionization, was recently struck by the union when it refused to confer with ILOUW representatives.

Feil, which manufactures down-filled and inexpensive cotton garments, fired a worker for pre-union activity. ILOUW brought all its organizing forces into play. The dismissal was merely the climax to a series of anti-union actions by the company.

With the union drive gaining momentum rapidly, the employer tried heading it off with small improvements that fell far short of union demands. Then Feil agreed to reinstate the dismissed worker, Rose Maden, with back pay. The union withdrew its unfair labor practice charge and the NLRB vote was scheduled.

Active in the drive are Cleveland Joint Board Organizers Julius Guralnick, International Organizers Henry Glaser, Robert Rowe and James Cermody and Institute trainee Gerald Chaney.

INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN BY OHIO ORGANIZERS NETS MORELLE MFG.

The Morelle Manufacturing Co. of Ashland, O., has been signed to a union pact after an intense drive that lasted several months. Vice Pres. Nicholas Kirtzman, Ohio-Kentucky regional director, reports.

Morelle is the second outside shop of the Cottrell Co. to be brought into union ranks. Cottrell's home plant is in Cleveland, and the other shop, Bucyrus Garment Co., is in Bucyrus, O. Kirtzman praised union workers at Cottrell, under the leadership of Agnes Zagar, for helping win the Ashland victory.

"The Morelle campaign is part of a larger Ohio-Kentucky drive aimed at organizing all unaffiliated women's garment shops in the Ashland-Cincinnati area," according to Kirtzman. Contract terms are similar to those in effect at Cottrell and Bucyrus.

Lacy Morelle representing the Morelle employees, stated that "a

Picketing Paid Off



Strong picket lines ringed firm of Stanley M. Feil in Cleveland last month before National Labor Relations Board called certifying election for Oct. 18. Workers walked out when company fired employee for union activity, and back when she was restored to job and NLRB test was set.

union shop will help stabilize production, and the union has a great deal of experience to offer in the solving of production problems. We look forward to a long period of cordial relations which will benefit both the firm and its workers."

Organizational efforts at Morelle were directed by International Organizers Henry Glaser and Robert Rowe and Cleveland Joint Board Organizer Julius Guralnick. Pre-conference sessions were attended by Kirtzman, Knitgoods Manager Benjamin McCroder and Other Manager Victor Cooper.

Morelle employees elected the following officers: Angelina Kenack, president; Angelina Cantagallo, vice president; Anna Rich, recording secretary; Josephine Maud, treasurer. The officers, plus Mary Barabato, Agnes Garity and Jennie Sabatine, comprise the committee handling the ILOUW charter.

Chicago Asks Vote At Style Tone Co.

Chicago organizers are reading a petition for a National Labor Relations Board certifying election at Style Tone Manufacturing Co., following the employer's refusal to recognize the ILOUW as bargaining agent despite clear-cut indications that the workers want union representation.

The drive at this concern began two weeks ago and has proceeded rapidly. At the very outset, enough workers expressed support for the union to assure an ILOUW majority in the plant. However, the employer refused to grant union recognition.

Meanwhile, organizers are intensifying home visits to workers in preparation for the impending NLRB test.

2 Los Angeles Affiliates Sign up 10 New Shops

Ten new shops were signed up by cloak, dress and sportswear organizers in Los Angeles last month. In about half of the cases, bitter strikes were necessary before the employers gave in to worker demands for union representation, Vice Pres. Samuel Otto, Pacific Coast director, reports.

The Cloak Joint Board brought a jobber and two contractors into union ranks following determined picketing by employees of the firms. After two-day walkouts, Manager Ildor Bismar negotiated agreements with the *Vile Originals* and *Buffie Fashions*. After one day of picketing, the *Sam Kalohe* firm followed suit. Cloakmakers also organized the jobbing house of *Michie Smith* and contractor *Fluence Coat*.

SOUTHWEST INSISTS MT. VERNON BOSSES QUIT PENSION STALL

Management's delay in organizing a joint commission to administer a retirement fund for workers of the Mt. Vernon, Ill., Garment Co. is holding up union efforts to set the fund in operation, reports Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein, Southwest regional director.

According to Perlstein, the firm's owners have been sending a representative to conferences without the authority to approve anything. Insisting that he cannot make a "policy-maker" decision, all management's lieutenant does is say "no" or keep quiet. Meanwhile, the real boss keeps away from the talks.

In a letter to the firm's executives, the union has set a date for a forthcoming meeting for workers that the personnel attend to help organize the commission, to be composed of an equal number of union and company representatives.

Payments to the employer-contributed fund were supposed to have begun on Dec. 1, 1954.

Smooter, union-management cooperation in administering an employees' pension fund was exemplified more recently in Dallas, Tex., where a joint ceremonial conference marked the fund's first bank deposit.

At the same conference, Jerome Cronman, president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, was elected impartial chairman of the union-employer joint commission to administer the fund.

Gains for the Los Angeles Dress and Sportswear Joint Board include *D and E Fashions* and *Peter and Tony* of California, casual dress shops, and sportswear houses *Joe Marchio* and *Ray Barth*. A fifth firm, *Freddy's*, was signed after a short strike, made necessary when the new management indicated it would not honor the existing union contract.

Manager John Ulene and Assistant Manager Fannie Borek of the new dress and sportswear affiliate sparked the organizing drive at an active members' meeting on Oct. 4. With Organization Director Jack Hays presiding, Organizers Jack Spindler, Hy Milstein, Thomas Talavera and Maria Carmona outlined specific tasks in the drive and received pledges of cooperation from existing members.

A strike against the large knitwear firm of *Maurice Helman* has been launched by the Knitgoods Organizing Committee under *Myrtle Silverstein*. The walkout is being supported by a large number of union members who are doing picket duty before their own regular work hours.

Otteneheimer Bros. Sued for Slander

The Southwest Regional Office is suing Otteneheimer Brothers Manufacturing Co. of Little Rock, Ark., for damages totaling \$200,000, reports Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein.

In a brief filed Oct. 7, the union accused company representatives of slandering the union and its officers. The slandering is alleged to have been committed by the company in an effort to influence workers to vote against the ILOUW in the election for the Little Rock Union Relations Board certifying election.

The suit was filed by Ann L. Edlin, union representative of Little Rock.

Over four million more women between the ages of 15 and 54 are in the labor force today than in 1949. Fifteen years ago, 46 per cent of all women workers were 25 and over; today 56 per cent are in that age bracket.

'Newer Look,' Rising Income Boost Apparel Sales Production

Sales of women's apparel in the first half of 1955 exceeded those of the same period last year by about 3 per cent, while dollar volume of shipments and production also advanced for most garment categories during the first seven months of this year, a new IRT Research Report Laxaxs Taper told the meeting of the General Executive Board in Atlantic City this month.

The prospect of continued rises in consumer incomes during the rest of the year points to additional gains in retail sales generally and greater demand for women's and children's apparel in particular, he indicated. This development is being stimulated by the introduction of the "newer look," emphasizing the long torso, the floating waist line and the easy fit.

The peak year in dollar sales for women's garments was 1952. Caught in a recession last year, however, the figure dropped about 1 per cent in 1953 and an additional 2 per cent in 1954. The sales total for the latter year, including accessories, was \$18,271,000,000.

Retail operations in the important department store sector indicate "a pretty general revival in women's wear sales," according to Taper. The store's top categories in coats and suits, which lost volume in both "upstates" (more expensive) and "downstates" (less expensive) departments. Coats, were off

4 per cent in the main store and 7 per cent in the basement.

The greater consumer demand for higher-priced goods is reflected in the comparison between main and basement sales. While dresses, aprons, house dresses, and uniforms, for example, registered losses "downstairs," their sales in the main store rose over the same period in 1954. Better dresses moved up a substantial 3.1 per cent.

Dollar Volume Varies

Impressive gains over 1954 in the department store were racked up by such items as blouses, skirts, sportswear, girls' wear, infants' wear, and corsets and brassieres. Figures on dollar volume of net shipments are another reflection of the trend to higher-priced goods. Throughout 1952, 1953 and the first seven months of this year, suit-priced dresses edged ahead. Down-priced dresses gained in 1953 but lost it back in 1954, then moved only slightly in the first half of this year, advancing 27 per cent. Unit-priced dresses, on the other hand, gained 8.1 per cent.

Skirts and blouses also suffered, some losses in dollar volume during 1954, but showed back considerably in the first seven months of this year. Skirts picked up 25.3 per cent more dollar volume, and blouses 18.4 per cent.

Dollar volume in the coat and suit sec-

tor did not improve until the second quarter of this year, but that advance, 18.2 per cent, was enough to boost the shipment value of the skirt category half-year period of 1954 by 2.6 per cent.

Production figures respond somewhat differently to shifts in consumer price preferences. Thus, "while the retail volume of the unit-priced dress industry was gaining between 1953 and 1954, the number of dresses produced had actually been declining," Taper noted. The trend persisted in the first seven months of 1955, for, while unit dress production did advance about 2.5 per cent, dollar volume in the same period rose 8.1 per cent. Behind this disparity lies increasing consumer interest in better garments made of more expensive fabrics.

The same type of upturning was noticeable in down-priced dresses, but absent in separates, blouses and skirts, due principally to the increased popularity of cotton fabrics in the latter. Mouse production, for example, shot up by 4,700,000 pieces through July of this year compared to the same period of 1954, but cotton blouses actually rose by 7,164,000 while those of other fabrics dropped by 284,000.

Coats and suits moved in different directions. Production of suits in popular price lines gained ground, but the best showing in coats was made in the middle brackets.

"The significant development in all lines of outerwear," Taper noted, "was the continued decline in the use of rayon and acetate."

Trends in the knit outerwear and undergarment industries are indicated by production data of sweaters and slips. In the case of slips, output dropped slightly in 1952, recovered and advanced in 1954, then fell again during the first part of this year. The slight signs of recovery are noticeable at the present time.

Sweaters Up

Sweater production, on the other hand, has risen steadily since 1952, climbing up by 15.5 million garments between 1952 and 1954 and another 1,500,000 in the first seven months of this year.

Employment statistics, including weekly hours and payrolls, indicate that children's wear abated the best showing in the past year. In every one of the last four quarters, employment, working hours and payrolls were higher than in corresponding periods of the year before. Substantial improvements in underwear and corsets did not appear until the last two quarters of 1954, and improvements of conditions in women's underwear lagged even during the first three months of 1955. Improvement in the latter category did take place in the second quarter.

ON MARCH 1, 1956



1

Becomes the legal minimum wage of the United States. Regardless of the kind of work done and whether the worker gets paid by piece, time or season—THE BOSS MUST PAY AT LEAST \$1 AN HOUR. The \$1 is not a favor—it is not a handout—no worker has to beg or bargain for it. The labor unions of this nation, with the ILGWU in the forefront, fought for the higher minimum wage and won it. It now belongs to workers—by law.

Higher—For All!

The prosperity of this nation depends on maintaining the balance between what we can produce and what we are able to consume. The new \$1 federal minimum wage will help restore some of that balance. Unionized workers will use collective bargaining machinery to get the full benefit of the increase in the minimum.

* But the higher legal minimum is ef-

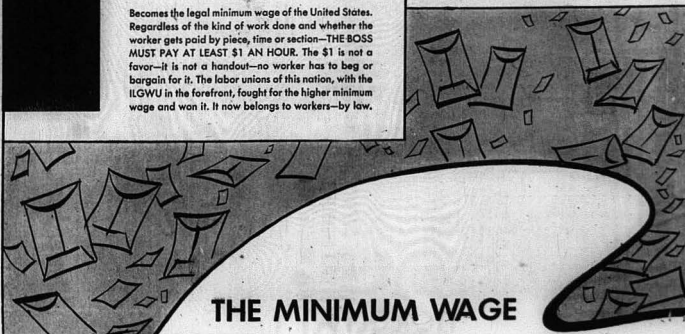
*I*N view of the enactment of the higher minimum wage by the Congress of the United States, the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union declares that the decision of the union's 1953 National Convention that new agreements be made to provide union minimums at least 10 cents higher than the legal minimum be continued with the establishment of the \$1 minimum wage. Further, the board directs all ILGWU affiliates that when the new federal minimum goes into effect, all wage rates, including piece rates, be adjusted upward to maintain the approximate relationship between the minimum and average earnings that existed prior to the raising of the minimum to \$1.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD,
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.
OCTOBER 5, 1955

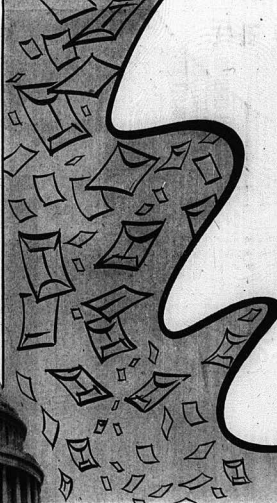
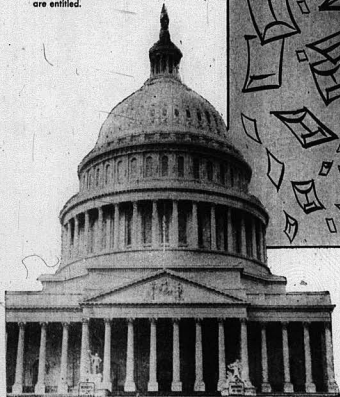


THE MINIMUM WAGE
AND YOU



benefit of the increase in the minimum.
But the higher legal minimum is effective for non-unionized workers as well. Lacking the bargaining strength of the union, such workers will be powerless to demand enforcement of the law where it is violated and will be unable to obtain the additional gains—in higher union minimums and rates—which members of the ILGWU affected by the change in the law will receive.

At its October, 1955 meeting, the General Executive Board of the ILGWU therefore authorized widespread organization drives through which unorganized workers will be called on to join the 440,000 members of the ILGWU. By becoming party to their collective strength, they, too, will be able to win for themselves the immediate wage gains as well as the higher union standards to which they are entitled.



AND YOU

Lifting the legal minimum wage rate on March 1 affects you in two ways:

(1) Your union agreement provides for union minimums that are higher than the legal minimum. When the legal minimum goes up, the union minimum must also go up.

(2) Most workers make average wages that are higher than the minimum provided in the agreement. The difference between the average and the minimum must be maintained. When the minimum goes up, wage rates, including piece rates, must be adjusted upward in order to preserve the difference.

The law provides only for the higher legal minimum. It does not provide for higher union minimums or higher average earnings. To get these you will have to use the united strength of your union—the ILGWU—and the collective bargaining machinery through which your higher union standards have been won.

Be on guard. Make certain that after March 1, your minimum and your average have also moved up. Don't let the new, higher wage floor become a wage ceiling. You and your union can protect your higher standards.

WE won it...

In the first part of 1955, the ILGWU and other unions put on a strong drive to have the present minimum wage of 75 cents raised to \$1.25. Officers and members journeyed to Washington, D. C., to appear before Congressional committees and to meet with Congressmen. President Eisenhower said that \$1.25 was too much—that 90 cents would be enough. Some reactionaries argued that even 90 cents was too much. Thanks to the unions, even non-union garment workers must now be paid at least \$1 an hour. The ILGWU fought for the higher minimum. It is now ready to fight again, this time to make certain that you get the full benefit of the increase—in a higher union minimum and in higher wage and piece rates when the legal minimum goes to \$1 on March 1.

EOT Perth Among Pact Saves Jobs, Standards

Conclusion of a contract with the Knitgoods Corporation of America of Perth Amboy, N. J., points up efforts by the Eastern Out-of-Town Department to save jobs of union members when shops close because of economic stress, Israel Horowitz, EOT general manager.

This firm is the successor to the American Knitwear Co., which went out of business last year. Amboy workers had won union conditions only after a four-day strike in which every worker in the shop had participated.

"When the company shut down," there was no immediate prospect for a new employer to take over. Therefore, the union made every effort to place as many workers as possible in other shops.

Local 160, managed by Herman Sitola, maintained a diligent surveillance of the plant to make sure that if another employer purchased it, he would enter into contractual relations with the union and recall those workers still unemployed.

Subsequently, the Knitgoods Corporation of America started negotiations with the defunct company for purchase of the plant. When the union learned of this development, it began simultaneous negotiations with the new corporation for the maintenance of ILO standards and an understanding that jobs be made available to former workers.

After months of parleying, in which Vice Pres. Louis Nelson, manager of the New York Knit goods Local 150 participated, the new company concluded an agreement with the union which maintains all conditions previously in effect at the plant. The pact also conforms with pre-existing standards in the New York knitgoods industry.

Employer resistance to the 15-hour week was the greatest obstacle to a settlement, but the union's steadfast stand won through. Overtime to be paid at time and one-half after regular daily hours. Holidays are set at three and one-half for

Wexler Appointed Florida Director

Max Wexler, supervisor of the Northeast Department's Update New York and Vermont District Council for many years, has been named state director of the ILGWU in Florida. He will head up continuing organizing drives in the Miami area.

Wexler came to Update New York from New York City 17 years ago, establishing an ILGWU office in Harkins. He operated out of that city for seven years, directing organizing activities among workers employed in Mohawk Valley plants. About 10 years ago, the district headquarters was moved to Utica.

When Wexler first came to the area, the union had only 800 members in that part of the state. Now, there are some 7,000 members in 18 ILGWU locals throughout Upstate New York and Vermont.



Max Wexler

both place and work workers. In addition, employees will get complete coverage under the union's health, welfare and retirement programs.

Minimum wages have been established in accordance with New York industry standards, and the employer has agreed to pay a minimum wage at least 10 cents an hour above federal legal requirements.

It was also stipulated that if, during the term of the agreement with the EOT Department, New York Knitgoods workers obtain any increased benefits, they shall be placed immediately to Perth Amboy workers.

Elizabeth La Count was designated shop chairlady.

Southwest Pushes Pay Rises In Associated Garment Talks

In a letter to the Associated Garment Industries of St. Louis, dated Oct. 5, the Southwest Regional Office informed this employer group with which it is seeking a renewed agreement that, in addition to the yearly employment plan previously requested, workers expect the following improvements to be included in the new agreement, Vice Pres. Meyer Perstein reports:

1. A 10 per cent wage increase for piece workers to be added to total weekly earnings.
2. Wage increases and higher minimum wage scales for pattern graders, cutters, operators, finishers, pressers, examiners and all other workers.
3. An additional one-half per cent of payroll contribution by the employer for a total of 3 1/2 per cent instead of 3 per cent, the additional half per cent to be used to provide income for workers during periods of illness.

Long-Kohn, Alfred Slacy Originals, Bridal Originals, Nadine Purnals, Dale Sportswear, Elaine Dress Manufacturers, Eleanor Frocks Manufacturing Co., Mar-Lee Garment Co., Richlee Juniors, and Samba, all in St. Louis, and the Eclair Manufacturing Co. in San Antonio, Tex.

Reils Reports on Trade At Local 23 Meet Oct. 27

Manager Louis Reil of Local 23, New York Skirmishers, will report on industry conditions and review local activities at a membership meeting Oct. 27, 5 P.M., at Hotel Diplomat, 10 West 38th St.

A movie of the shop chairman's outing held at Unity House will be shown.

Classes in English for Hispanics get under way Oct. 11 and will be given every Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 8 P.M. Education Director Aaron Pankin announces. Members wishing to attend may register with their shop chairman, business agent or at the union office.

Pacts Expire

In this letter, the manufacturers were also reminded that the current cloak, dress and embroidery agreements expire at the end of the year. Registered letters also were sent to the following manufacturers who have individual contracts with the union, informing them of the wage increases and other improvements sought for inclusion in agreement renewal:

The Gift of Garb



Committee of strikers of Serbin Garment Co. in Fayetteville, Tenn., were guests of Dressmakers' Local 22 meeting in New York last week, when they appeared in that city to explain issues in strike to consumers of Serbin products. Dressed in prison garb to dramatize suppression of their rights by sweeping injunction in Tennessee, workers are introduced to meeting by Vice Pres. Charles Zimmerman, dressmakers' manager. Members gave them enthusiastic ovation and pledged full cooperation.

'East Wins at Milham By 2-1 in NLRB Ballot

One hundred employers of Milham Products Co. in Dorchester, Mass., last month proved that their determination to win union conditions was stronger than injunctions, intimidation and threatened lockouts. They gave the ILGWU a thumping 2 to 1 victory in National Labor Relations Board certification balloting held Sept. 25. Vice Pres. David Ginsburg, Northeast Department director, reports.

The Milham campaign began in February, when employees of the company, primarily elderly women, called in the union, and walked out to protest the shop's deplorable working conditions. They pointed particularly to the production speedup which placed impossible burdens on them, and to the extremely low level of wages.

Milham responded by obtaining a sweeping injunction, considered one of the most drastic ever granted in the area, which in effect drew an iron curtain between workers and their union. The NLRB, meanwhile, was pondering charges that Milham had engaged in spying tactics and had threatened to shut down the plant. If the union was brought in April, picketing, ended when the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service obtained an agreement that the workers would be returned to their jobs without discrimination and the NLRB would set an election date.

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Hail Victory

Vice Pres. Ginsburg hailed the election victory as "a justification of the mutual faith that these workers and the union have in each other. Despite the long record of acts of intimidation, despite the reflection of anti-labor attitudes in the form of a brutal injunction, the deep desire of Milham workers for union benefit and security could not be crushed."

The strike was directly supervised by Northeast Field Supervisor Jack Halpern with assistance from Northern New England Supervisor Mary Levin, New England Organizing Director Ralph Roberts and staff members. Cooperation was also extended by Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, Manager of the Boston Joint Board.

Strikes Effective

Three other recent strikes in the lower New England area, all of shorter duration than the Milham walkout, helped bring about new agreements or negotiating sessions. The three shops affected are Hylcraft Sportswear Co. of Lowell, Mass., Lincoln Dress Co. of Paw-

tucket, R. I., and Chevrolet Co. of Boston.

Hylcraft, a contractor employing 50 people, was brought into the union fold with pay raises, shorter working hours, paid holidays, and other work and union benefits for its workers. Union-management negotiations at Lincoln Dress are near completion, with a written agreement to be formalized. Helping to reach the settlement are Vice Pres. Kramer and Boston Joint Board Business Agent Bob Wallace. Lincoln has 60 employees.

Bell Negotiations

Successful completion of the campaign at Chevrolet, meanwhile, has served to kick off negotiations with the four major belt companies in the Boston area, whose work force is about 300. This campaign has also been extended to the city's bus binding and button shops, where unionizing efforts have evoked a favorable response.

Halpern, who is directing the campaign, says that the drive headed by Vice Pres. Kramer and Supervisor Levin, assisted by Brockton Manager Henry Briden, is mapping plans for company organization of the Bell trade.

Under terms of the Chevrolet pact, workers will receive a new board wage hike, shorter work weeks, paid holidays, health and welfare benefits and a guaranteed minimum wage of \$1.38 an hour above the new federal wage base of \$1.

POLITICAL DIRECTOR DETAILS EFFECTIVE MINIMUM PAY DRIVE

A detailed account of the campaign this year that resulted in the increase in the federal minimum wage was prepared for the General Executive Board by Gus Tyler, director of the ILGWU District Department. The 11-page study was distributed at the second-day session of the Atlantic City meeting.

The report is a model case study of a legislative campaign by labor and traces the history of the drive in which the efforts of the ILGWU and other unions were pooled. It also analyzes Congressional attitudes and personnel that had to be taken into account in planning the drive.

On the community level, the report points out, many methods were used for gaining support for the drive. Regional meetings were held, visits to Congressmen were arranged, the need for a higher minimum wage was explained to employers as well as community leaders, newspapers, were encouraged to cover the campaign, petitions were circulated.

Hundreds of union members came to Washington to "lobby." The technical resources of the participating unions were mobilized for research and legislative purposes. Union leaders appeared before the Congressional committee and a vast amount of literature, dealing with the need for a higher minimum wage in the mainland as well as in Puerto Rico, was distributed.

A major lesson of the campaign, says the report, "has been that the success of the legislative drive came from their home districts by their constituents. The operation of the drive on the local level, by local people, was one of the major keys to the success of the campaign."

DRESS REGISTRATION PROCEEDS SMOOTHLY FOR ADDED BENEFITS

Registration of Dress Joint Board members for benefits available under the union's new comprehensive medical program is now in its third week, progressing on schedule, according to joint board officials.

Meanwhile, the union's educational program aimed at giving dressmakers full information on the new program and the benefits it provides is also moving ahead. Reprints of the detailed explanation of the program which appeared in JUSTICE on Sept. 15 and Oct. 1 are being distributed to all shops.

In addition, a booklet prepared in cooperation with Blue Cross, Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York (HIP) and Group Health Insurance (GHI), the three agencies participating in the program, will also be distributed in the shops.

The educational program got under way at a meeting of shop chairmen and shop committees at Manhattan Center last month, when General Manager Julius Hochman explained the new benefits, using slides to illustrate his talk. Local 80 Manager Luigi Antonini also spoke, and Local 22 Manager Charles Zimmerman chaired the meeting.

Business agents report that the JUSTICE reprints are doing an excellent job in the shops, and that registration is proceeding smoothly.

Proud Pensioner



Bernard Rifkin of Local 156, Newburgh, N. Y., beams happily as his retirement is formalized with presentation of honorary membership card. Ceremony took place before entire executive board of local and workers of Fashion Center shop. Congratulations are extended by Local Pres. Ann Lawless and Business Agent Sol Goldberg.

EOT Adds 1,200 to ILG Rolls; Nears Perfect 35-Hr. Score

In the past eight months 42 shops employing more than 1,200 workers were unionized by the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, department head, reported last week at a meeting of EOT managers.

Turning continued organizing activity "a vital counter-balance to the normal loss of shops that go out of business because of economic reasons," Horowitz stressed the additional burdens shared on organizations striving to save the jobs of workers.

In this respect, the union was able to persuade new employers to take over closed plants and to hire the skilled pool of displaced workers, Horowitz stated. As an example, he cited the economic disaster that hit workers when the Miss Swank plant of Middletown, N. Y., and the Royal Undergarment Co. of Troy, N. Y., shut their doors. The union stepped in, held long and patient negotiations with the new employers and stressed the ability of union members to turn out a good garment. As a result, the Park Royal Linen Co. took over in Middletown, and the Troyart Manufacturing Co. began in Troy. Moreover, all the basic union agreements set forth in previous contracts were carried over in the new agreements.

35-Hour Record

Horowitz disclosed that of the 422 shops under EOT jurisdiction, only one, employing 31 workers, still remains on a 68-hour week; this firm's contract, signed before the 1953 ILGWU convention, is due to expire at the end of this year.

Turning to the recent negotiations of 42 independent agreements benefiting 1,200 workers, Horowitz reviewed some of the main problems encountered and attributed the solutions to provisions for reduced hours with compensating increases and improved fringe benefits.

The EOT chief announced that as a matter of policy his department would include in all future independent agreements a clause similar to the one instituted by the New York Dress Joint Board. This provides that employers are to pay all contributions for state disability benefits, without any deductions from workers' wage. Eleven independent pacts containing this provision already have been concluded, he added.

Back Blousemakers

Horowitz requested all EOT managers to give full support to New York Blousemakers' Local 23, which, under the guidance of its manager, Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, now begin negotiations for renewal of the collective agreement in the blouse industry.

Many EOTers working in blouse shops whose employers

are affiliated with the Blouse Contractors Assn. will be directly affected by the outcome of negotiations. The EOT general manager pointed out.

In a survey of industrial conditions, Horowitz noted that improved earnings was not the only factor which had improved workers' morale. Kudos also went to the ILGWU Political Department for spearheading the drive for higher federal minimum wage. EOT officers and members for persuading conscientious legislators to back the increase, and EOT managers and staffers for their helping speed union aid to victims of the recent flood disaster.

EOT in Union City Urges Police, Firemen's Raises

Eastern Out-of-Town Locals 141 and 142 this month publicly endorsed wage increases for underpaid police and firemen of Union City, N. J.

The issue comes up for referendum vote on Nov. 8. All ILGers residing in the vicinity of Union City and West New York were urged to vote for the increase and to remind their families and friends to do likewise.

TWO NEW CONCERNS ORGANIZED SWIFTLY BY EOT IN PATERSON

Organization of Bonita Procks and Plaskins, Inc., in Paterson, N. J., underscores the union's alertness in enrolling new shops that spring up in a unionized area, reports Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, general manager of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department.

As soon as these shops began operations, EOT organizers, under the direction of Local 311 Manager Peter Detlefsen, started organizing activities. Successful completion of the drive was speeded by employees' realization that the great majority of the city's workers are unionized, and that it would be impossible for them to conduct an efficient operation without a union agreement.

Workers of Bonita Procks, a children's dress manufacturer, obtained a schedule calling for a reduction in working hours from 40 to 35, with a compensatory increase of 14 per cent. Both place and workers will be paid for six and one-half holidays, will be covered by union health, welfare and retirement benefits and will receive vacation pay ranging up to the equivalent of two weeks wage.

The Plaskins Co., producer of coats and related products, was organized almost immediately after it opened its doors. Accordingly, it starts operations on a 35-hour week basis, with piece work rates for operators and sewers established under strict supervision of the union. As a result of piece-work studies being conducted, the earnings of these workers are expected to compare favorably with earnings in the dress, blouse, and underwear industries.

Both piece and week workers will be paid for four and one-half holidays. In all other respects, the contract conforms to the standards of EOT agreements.

Both companies have agreed to pay a minimum wage of at least 19 cents an hour above legal requirements. In effect, this means that on Nov. 1, 1956, no worker in these shops will receive less than \$1.36 an hour.

In addition, employees of both shops have agreed to bear the full cost of disability benefits provided by New Jersey without any deductions from workers' wages.

LA Helps Victims Of Mexican Floods

ILGWU members in Los Angeles are busily collecting food, clothing and staple items like blankets, etc., for relief of victims of the recent hurricane and floods in Tampico, Mexico. The activity is part of a general community-wide program of relief.

Signing Up for Good Health



Cards for new health plan in New York dress industry are signed by employees of Traine Murrell Firm. At left, operator Santina Triolo is instructed by Local 89 Business Agent Carmelo Landoli, while operator Marie Arnt and Local 22 Business Agent Abe Feil talk it over at right.

Long-Run Preview



With signing of new pact, Preview Fashions this month joined growing list of union firms in Miami, Fla. Agreement features establishment of 35-hour work week, wage hike, welfare benefit. Formerly "dottling it" and "crossing it" are, left to right: Harry Melz, Miami ILGWU Manager Samuel Rosen of firm and Business Agent Louis Weiss.

10 Textile Productivity Meet Told of Need to Boost Demand

William Gomborg, director of the ILGWU Management Engineering Department, this month told an international session of textile labor and employer representatives in Geneva, Switzerland, that increased textile production in the face of satiated demand for the industry's products was stifling working conditions and causing heavy unemployment.

Gomborg made his statements in an address to the Productivity Subcommittee of the Textiles Committee of the International Labor Organization, which he attended as a U. S. workers' delegate.

Gomborg's challenge was issued directly to the employers, to whom he said: "What plans do you propose for increasing consumption by finding new uses for old textiles?"

"What plans do you have for reaching the great untapped potential market of those who need clothes but cannot buy them at present?"

"What measures are you ready to undertake so that the international competition for textile markets will not take place at the expense of lower and lower wages and worse and worse working conditions?"

"The textile industry," Gomborg declared, "has shown an inability to dispose of the existing volume of products. In other words, the industry, as it is now constituted, seems to be near the limitation of its effective demand. Effective demand should not be confused with human need. There is a tremendous need for clothing and textile products. The problem is that we have not developed a mechanism to convert this human need into an effective demand."

Following Gomborg's address, workers' members of the productivity subcommittee prepared a declaration which stated, in part:

"Any program for increased productivity must include within itself a method of effectively distributing the goods produced by that industry."

"Employers should accept the principle of the mass market, relying on large volume and small profit per unit."

"The employers shall assume responsibility in cooperation with the government for the fate of workers displaced by any productivity program."

Antoniou, Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, Vice Pres. Joseph Breslav, Vice Pres. Louis Hyman, Vice Pres. Benjamin Kaplan, Vice Pres. Salvatore Niles, because of their illness, were not present. Vice Pres. Alexander Meyer Perlestein and Edward Molinard, both of whom were absent from the session.

Participating also in the presentation and the discussion of the reports were Vice Pres. Louis

Pres. Dubinsky Reports Gains in Most Markets

(Continued from Page 3)

Washington to talk to their representatives in Congress.

The president then turned to a consideration of the work being done by the ILGWU Training Institute through which future personnel for the staff of the union is being trained. The institute began to function in 1950.

"For five years we have watched the work of the school, made changes in its curriculum to conform with the changing needs of our organization, checked with the department heads and field personnel to determine how effective the training has been," the ILGWU head declared.

Despite the fact that some of the graduates have not remained with the ILGWU, he continued, most of them have stayed on to render the services for which they were trained. He used data assembled by the school's director, Arthur A. Elmer, to show that in five years the institute graduated 17, of whom 87 are now in ILGWU service. 27 dropped out and three are with the armed forces.

Permanent Part of Union

At present, six graduates are serving with New York affiliates, 18 with the Northeast, 18 with the Eastern Out-of-Town, nine with the Southeast, six with the Upper South, five each with the Southwest and the Midwest, four with the Pacific Coast, three with Ohio-Kentucky, two each with Philadelphia, Cook Out of Town, Jersey, one in Puerto Rico and two with the ILGWU Management-Engineering Department.

"The school has become an essential, permanent part of our organization. It is no longer an experiment. Without it, many vacancies on our staff could not have been filled," Dubinsky declared.

He described recent changes in health and welfare benefits and plans in operation among the New York dress affiliates, and warned that no conclusions should be drawn from these experiments until there

is sufficient experience on which to base them. He added that at least a year of operation would be needed before it became clear whether or not the changes were workable improvements.

This, he said, held true for both the Dress Joint Board's use of Health Insurance Plan (HIP) and Group Health Insurance (GHI) in place of the Union Health Center and Union Health Plan, which he continued with the Health Center, while expanding indemnity payments for sick members.

File for Pensions At Drivers' Local

Eligible members of New York Cook and Dress Drivers' Local 153 may file applications for retirement from now until Nov. 1, announced Manager Sam Berger, chairman of the fund's board of trustees.

Following a period of processing, approved applicants will begin receiving benefits of \$50 monthly from Jan. 1, 1954. A pamphlet explaining eligibility requirements has been published and distributed to all members of Local 153. Berger said.

At a recent shop chairman's meeting Berger declared that the local is embarking on an intensive organizing campaign.

Berger also strongly urged shop chairmen to get all out to spur registration for the coming elections and a large enrollment in the Liberal Party.

'62' Program Lists Education Variety

Knowledge and recreation are scheduled to share the spotlight when the 1962-63 educational program of Local 62 gets underway with a full slate of varied courses.

Following is the Local 62 curriculum, as announced by Vice Pres. Louis Blumberg, manager of the Union Department and Negligee Workers' Union:

Speech improvement and drama (Mondays and Thursdays); English for Spanish-speaking members (Mondays); photography (Wednesdays); public affairs (to be announced); handicrafts (Mondays); dancing (Mondays).

All classes start at 5:45 P. M. at the union headquarters, 813 Broadway, Manhattan.

Courses for first voters also will be given, in addition to counseling on unemployment insurance, social security and rent problems. On the extra-curricular level, members may take advantage of the local's lending library, social activities and theater and movie tickets.

Briefing the Newcomers

Bowles to Gift Geneva At Forum of Local 38

Chester Bowles, former Governor of Connecticut and more recently United States Ambassador to India, will address an educational forum sponsored by Local 38, New York Ladies' Tailors and Costume Dressmakers, on Monday, Oct. 21.

Bowles' speech, on the topic "How Generalissimo 'Wield Power'," is the first in the series of forums scheduled by the local this season. All members are invited to the program, which starts right after work at Local 38, 117 West 46th St.

PROF. JAHODA SPEAKS ON HUMAN RELATIONS AT HUNTER ON OCT. 29

A large turnout of New York ILGWU members is expected when Prof. Janice Jahoda of New York University speaks on "The Importance of Human Relations" at the Education Department's Fall Saturday afternoon discussion of the Fall session, on Oct. 29, 1:15 P. M. at Hunter College, Park Ave. and 69th St., Room 100.

Pamela Cohn, secretary of the Education Department, announced that forthcoming Saturday sessions will include a discussion of "Our Economic Institutions," led by Prof. Henry David of Columbia University, on Nov. 6, and "The Difference Between the European Parliamentary System and the American Federal Government," with Gus Tyler, ILGWU political director, Nov. 12.

Weekly Thursday night education-recreation programs also are in full swing at Tottien High School, 18th St. between 8th and 9th Aves., Room 504. Authorities such as Prof. Bernard Stern of Brooklyn College, Dr. Julius Mason of the New York State Mediation Board and Abe Weiss, economist and historian, will analyze a variety of topics, including the effect of automation on the labor movement, the structure and functioning of the ILGWU and the AFL, the significance of adult labor education, and attention given to the masses of the people in current literature.

Members of '68' May File In November for Pensions

Qualified members of Local 68 Members to retire have the whole month of November in which to file their applications, according to Acting Manager Harry Greenberg of the Union and Hand Embroiderers, Tuckers, Stitchers and Finers Union.

Members who are 65 and have a total of 35 years' membership in the union and work in union shops are eligible, provided the last ten years of "direct service" in membership and employment were continuous up to the time application is made.

CEB Gives Green Light To Organizing Campaign

(Continued from Page 3)

already had been getting more than \$1 an hour.

The General Executive Board's statement directs all affiliates thus affected to use established bargaining machinery for making certain that these differences are preserved as the minimum rates. But in non-union shops, the board reasoned, that machinery is lacking.

For this reason, the board authorized the president to launch organizing drives that would utilize the strength of the union to get the full benefit of the higher wage rate. It directed the president to add as many organizers as he could get, and was required to carry out this directive.

At the same time, it was decided to explore the feasibility of launching a general organizing drive in the New York metropolitan area. A committee composed of Vice Presidents Nagler, Hochman, Breslaw, Schubert and Nelson was named. Pres. Zimmerman as chairman, is to survey the situation and to present a report to the New York Board.

ILGWU BOSS BY Sidney Margolis

Group Auto Insurance May Mean Lower Costs

In many areas, auto insurance rates went up again this year, notably in the growing suburban areas. But there are new trends that can help car owners save off some of the high insurance costs levied on them.

For the first time, a large group of consumers is investigating the possibility of buying auto insurance through the ILGWU. The Organized Federation of Labor has proposed that each large group within the federation make available to its members auto insurance which may be purchased directly from an insurance company or labor could form its own concern.

Each group would receive dividends based on its accident record. The group is able to reduce accidents among its members, they would receive a substantial dividend.

The fact is, about half the price you pay for auto insurance goes to selling and administration expenses and profit, and only slightly over 50 cents of your premium dollar is used to pay claims. This is the real reason rates have jumped so high in recent years. The companies have blamed the number of accidents and the increased size of claims (it now costs more to repair damaged cars). But every time a vehicle gets up, premium rates have increased approximately twice as much to take care of the industry's expenses.

In contrast, group buying of sickness and life insurance has reduced costs as much as 50 per cent below individual policies.

Because of high rates, more buyers have been seeking auto insurance through "direct writers," who sell through their own agents, over the counter or by mail, rather than through brokers. As a result, more insurers, including some full-rate companies, have launched cut-rate subsidiary companies who sell directly at lower rates.

Generally, the lower a company's charges, the more selective it is about whom it will insure, and the more determined to fend off exaggerated claims. On the other hand, the low-rate insurers are generally prompt and fair payers of what they consider to be the reasonable claims.

Pay-out records indicate that the price charged for insurance has little to do with prompt payment. Some of the lowest-cost companies have a low ratio of law suits over liability claims, while some higher-cost companies have higher ratios.

Liability insurance is a car-owner's real need, not collision insurance. Liability insurance protects you against ruinous damage suits, while collision insurance protects only up to the market value of your car, and is costly for this comparatively small protection. Uncle Sam, in any case, provides part collision insurance, since non-reimbursed accident damage is tax deductible.

Especially beware auto insurance sold by car dealers and finance companies. Dealers may induce you to get insurance from them. Actually, it is illegal in most states to make financing conditional on buying insurance. Insurance sold by finance companies and dealers is often high cost, but even worse, it covers generally only the finance company's interest in the car, and does not protect you against liability suits.

(An expanded list of low-cost auto insurers may be obtained by writing to JUSTICE at 1710 Broadway, New York 18, N. Y.)

RECORD ENROLLMENT FILLS DRAWING CLASS

Some openings are still available for members interested in handcraft work, ILO Education Director Mark Starr reports. The Handicraft Studio, at 110 East 16th St., Manhattan, offers evening classes four times a week, in a variety of arts and crafts products.

The schedule: Mondays, advanced ceramics, leather and glove-making; Tuesdays, beginners' leather and metal work; Wednesdays, ceramics and weaving; Thursdays, beginners' ceramics and weaving. Also slated are several excursions to painting and art exhibits in museums and other institutions.

The last call has been issued for registration at Officers' Qualification Courses. These classes, held Monday and Thursday evenings, are a requirement for members aspiring to union offices.

The department's drawing class has reached a record enrollment, Starr reports. Instructor Arthur Sola, who also teaches sculpture, has been forced to stagger class hours to meet the increased demand.

The first in a series of monthly mental health lectures will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 1710 Broadway, 7:30 P. M. This third Manhattan State Hospital will discuss "The New Drugs of Mental Illness" and "Problems Arising from New Drug Therapy." The talks are sponsored by the Education Department and the AWH, for the improvement of mental hospitals.

Privileges and duties of trade unionists are outlined to new members of Local 99, Office and Distribution Workers, by Assistant Manager Douglas Levin.

CUTTERS COLUMN

'Like Father, Like Son' in '70'
As Sons Join Cutters' Banks

That the offspring of garment workers, by and large, have not been attracted to the industry, despite greatly improved conditions that are a far cry from the sweatshop of an earlier era, has been the subject of frequent comment. Many have deplored the situation, others called for measures to attract young people to the various garment trades.

However, very few persons, even in union and trade circles, realize that at least in one craft-cutting—the trend has been the other way.

Recently, How Falkman, manager of cutters' Local 10, speaking at an executive board meeting, noted that there were a great many sons of members of Local 10 following their fathers into the trade and joining the bank.

The editor of JUSTICE, who happened to be at this particular meeting, pricked up his ears, for this did not mesh right with the usual refrain that the children of garment workers are not going into the trade. With an obvious air of skepticism, he quizzically asked, "How many is a great many?" and to his amazement, Falkman replied, "Hundreds!"

Hundreds Join

And that's how this story came about. For it was verified that hundreds of sons and some nephews and sons-in-law of Local 10 members and also of members of other ILO locals have entered the cutters' trade in recent years. And they're still coming in—not in droves exactly, but in fairly ample numbers. In fact, they have been able to keep the membership of Local 10 fairly stable, despite losses through retirement and also some decline in the membership, particularly in the coat and suit branch.

Not how did these young men get into the trade? To be sure, some were "sold" by their father or close relative on the idea that being a cutter in the garment trade was a pretty good way to make a living and rear a family. After all, they had been doing it for years with a considerable degree of satisfaction, with conditions steadily improving and with the help of a strong and respected union.

Average prevailing wages in cutting rooms range from \$55 to \$110 plus vacation, health and retirement benefits might also have had a persuasive effect.

With the young man "sold" on the idea, the next step was a visit to the union office, where entry of children of union members is encouraged, if not preferred (although membership is not restricted to relatives of union members).

In all cases, of course, there must be an opening in a shop for the young apprentice. Sometimes, it is a shop where the "old man" is retiring, in which case he will be the tutor; sometimes, it is a different shop where a good seamstress will help the young man to learn the trade.

Control Conditions

While the young apprentices are qualified to be full fledged cutters and to be admitted to the union, Local 10 has complete control over training conditions, is careful, of course, to keep their number in line with the actual needs of the trade.

It had not been generally realized heretofore how many of the youngsters of union members had come into Local 10. It has been estimated a great many of the young people have taken up cutting and joined the union in recent years.

Over 8 years ago, a membership census showed there were 3,000 officers of Local 10 under 60 years of age. Out of a total of 12,510 in this group, 690 were under 30 years, 525 between 30 and 34 years and 566 between 35 and 39 years.

Most of the new recruits are tak-

LOCAL 10
MEMBERS
REGULAR
MEETING
MONDAY
Oct. 31

Right after work

MANHATTAN CENTER
34th Street and 8th Avenue

ing their jobs seriously. They are anxious to improve their knowledge and advance in the trade. Many of them are enrolled in the local's classes on grading and patternmaking.

A group of ten members of Local 10 and their sons (one son-in-law) who are working as cutters were interviewed at the office of Local 10 and posed for a picture (to appear in a forthcoming issue of JUSTICE). The "dads" had been members of the local anywhere from 15 to 30 years. Several of them were only in their forties! As for the "youngsters," they were a clean-cut type of typical young American rearing in age from 19 to 25.

With one exception, all had completed high school and two had taken some college courses. Several had been in the service; one had spent four years in the Navy, another two years in the Army Medical Corps and a third had spent three years in the Marines, having enlisted at the age of 17½.

Most in fact were working in sportswear shops, but some were employed in dress and underwear shops and one in a coat and suit shop.

The youngsters said they were pleased with their choice of a vocation. The dads appeared to be pleased with their boys. And Manager Falkman, beaming at the group with obvious gratification, appeared to be pleased at the fact that Local 10 had so many fathers and sons in the organization.

Incidentally, the photographer, who had planned to take a picture of the young men standing in front of their fathers, had to change his plan. Nearly all the youngsters were taller than their fathers! This caused some joking about the vitamins that must have been packed into junior by mama back home but, taken now grown to manhood, took it all good-naturedly.

Labor Publicizes

Serbin Strike Info

Labor leaders throughout the country have joined the ILGWU in bringing before the public the issues in the six-month-old strike against Serbin, Inc., in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

In the face of an injunction that has picketing anywhere in Tennessee, the union has through a cord of information beyond State House, State federations of labor in Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and a number of



TODAY AND TOMORROW

by Luigi Antonini FIRST VICE-PRES. - ILGWU

Columbus' Discovery Key To Five-Century Progress

Four hundred sixty-three years ago this week, a new age dawned on the deck of the galleon Pinta. Shouts of "Tierra! Tierra!" shattered the silence of the night sea air. And history in the shape of a boat veered in a new direction on that first Columbus Day.

No horizons could confuse Christopher Columbus, the son of Genoa. In his youth, he "sang the sun in flight" by day and tirelessly charted the stars by night. The conviction became his that the earth, like the head, was that the earth was no more limited by the Pillars of Hercules than the mind was hemmed in by the ears.

Posterity Grateful

Columbus was not born at a time when man pioneered for the sake of pioneering. Disappointment, mockery, restlessness only rellit the fire of his determination. For that, posterity is grateful.

Civilization's achievements of the last 500 years might have been forestalled for centuries if not for Columbus' discovery. For in less than five centuries since that historic morning in 1492, the rate of social, economic and scientific progress in the New World has far surpassed that of thousands of years of earlier civilization.

Consequently, the expedition that took Columbus 70 days in 1492 has become a six-hour jet hop in 1955. The prodigy that was in development on the new continent sprang not alone from nature's wealthy endowments, which the Old World could match. The genius of America lay

—other states have made the facts known to their affiliated locals. The Serbin story is no longer an issue of concern only to workers and unionists immediately involved; it has reached a wide segment of the consuming public as well.

With picketer morale registering high at the strike-bound Fayetteville plant, picketing continues at Serbin's Miami shop, reports Southeast Regional Director E. T. Kahane. Several unsuccessful attempts have been made by Serbin to bring in strikebreakers.

BOOK FRONT

by Herman Speckhauser

Study Tells How Big Businessman Reaches the Top

THE BIG BUSINESS EXECUTIVE. By Mabel Newcomer. Columbia University Press. \$4. HOW I MADE A MILLION. By 25 Millionaires. Lyle Library. 25 cents.

Dr. Newcomer is professor of economics at Yassar College. She has applied traditional research techniques to produce a scholarly, yet stirring, picture of the big business man in America today. And she has added the dimension of time to her portrait by using sources that enable her to compare the executive today with that of 1900 and 1925.

The result is a kind of national history of the big executive, telling how he functions in respect to the board of directors, what his political, religious and national origins are, how important were his father's occupation and income in getting him his high power within his educational background, how did he get started and what has kept him going forward and upward.

Dr. Newcomer is hopeful that the increasing professionalization of business administration "may serve as an increasingly important factor in modifying the anti-social tendencies of big business." The degree to which position is more important than ability is implied in her findings.

The Lion Library original is a compilation of by-line pieces by men who made their million starting from scratch. These men did not fail, you says the blurb. The 25 astounding true stories tell you how.

Any you need, says the legend, is "just an idea, plus ambition, plus guts, plus a dash of common sense," so that if you still haven't made it, you are obviously lacking in one of these respects. It is a collection of colorful, frank, and a guarantee to get you richer and therefore cheap at the price.

Human Spirit

By MAX PRESS

The axe, the phibet and the wall—The human heart survives them all! When all is lost and hope is gone, The spine still stands, the feet move on.

The body breaks, but not the pride, That lone and stubborn thing inside That shows the brave, the twisted grin, While the heart bleeds and bleeds within.

Stronger than torture, war and death, The spirit with tormented breath: Spits defiance stretched on the rack, Broken, hemmed in, it still fights back.

It rises from the blood and pain, It lives to ruin and in fire, With shield just it meets its fate, Still it faces the lightning, rain.

Time kills the flesh, but takes no toll Of the imperishable human soul, Triumphant where the body lies, The human spirit never dies.

Spanish-Speaking ILGers Get Weekly English Class

The ILGWU Education Department is offering a weekly course in English for Spanish-speaking members of the union. The class, which is free, is held on Tuesdays from 8 to 8 P.M., in Room 565, 1110 Broadway, Manhattan.

Beltmakers Start Education Season

New York Beltmakers' Local 40 is about to launch its 1955-56 educational program, consisting of a wide variety of classes in language, dancing, crafts and sports, cutting and other educational and recreational activities, reports Manager Henry Schwartz.

Topping the curriculum available to belt makers are classes in English for Spanish-speaking members and a course in Spanish.

Free counseling on such problems as unemployment insurance, social security, real estate, etc., will also be an important part of the program.

Rounding out the agenda will be classes in social dancing, group singing, photography, home economics, leather craft and glove making, ceramics, labor history and sewing tickets.

The local's recreation and sports offerings include gymnastics, the Local 40 baseball team, bowling, swimming, library facilities and theater.

At least five outings have been planned. They include trips to Hyde Park, the United Nations, a weekend in Washington, D. C., three day trip to Canada and a boat ride and picnic.

Questionnaires have been distributed to Local 40 members, who are being asked to check the activities in which they are interested and return forms to their shop chairman or chairlady.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

WAGES—AND HOURS

THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD has directed all affiliates of the ILGWU to adjust wages upward in order to maintain the relationship between minimum and average earnings when the federal minimum rate rises to \$1 on Mar. 1, 1956. At its Atlantic City meeting, the board also declared that until now the shortening of the work week has remained the most effective means for stabilizing earnings and employment in our industry.

Board members applauded Pres. Dubinsky's report that since the 1953 Convention, the 35-hour week has been spread from 52 per cent to 95 per cent of our members in the United States. This advance, he emphasized, has been accomplished without conflict and with the wage increases necessary to keep earnings up as hours went down.

These developments would have filled delegates to the 1920 Convention with amazement and wonder. In the midst of a determined but faltering drive for the 40-hour week, they resolved that "We will insist on a shorter work week until such time when even the ladies' garment industry will recognize our right to work normally and regularly throughout the year as human beings ought to work."

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN UNIVERSAL agreement on how "human beings ought to work." Indeed, there have always been those who have insisted that the basic evil in the United States. This advance, he emphasized, has been accomplished without conflict and with the wage increases necessary to keep earnings up as hours went down.

When workers clamored for a 10-hour work day, when they pleaded that children be kept out of the coal mines and that the hours of work for women be limited, embattled industrialists roared back that empires would fall and whole populations would sink into sin if these conditions were granted. At the turn of the century, a great economist could declare that the major objection to the idea of a minimum wage was "the fear that it would lead to malingering."

Working men and women spend their lives hating the hours of their labor for the goods and services they and their families need in order to live. In our industrial society, progress has not been inevitable; it has been the consequence of the sometimes-qualified freedom with which organized labor has been able to seek and obtain improvements in the standard of living.

Organized labor's faith in the superiority of freedom has made us the wealthiest and most powerful nation in the world. Our spiritual freedom has been paralleled by material gains. With our shorter work week and higher wage rates, a worker buys a pound of butter with 30 minutes of his labor, a quart of milk with eight minutes, a dozen eggs with 32 minutes. But in dictatorship lands, where the work day is longer and the wage is lower, the dictator needs 270 minutes of work for the butter, 42 for the milk, 223 for the eggs.

YET EVEN TODAY there are backward-looking industrialists, encouraged by the present Administration and its agencies, who long to lengthen the work day and put the worker back in his dependent place by saddling him with a lower wage. We shall certainly encounter this specimen in the organization drive, authorized by the GEB, aimed at bringing the benefits of the higher minimum to all garment workers.

We shall beat them now as we have beaten them in the past. We shall do it not only because of our determination, but also because enlightened employers as well as organized workers have learned the lesson which Samuel Gompers, founder of the American Federation of Labor, put into the following words: "If long hours and low wages were the barometer of commercial and industrial prosperity, China would stand first in the list. The shorter work day, with attendant readjustments, invariably results in greater production."

"Now—Hear This!"



"Wherever You Are..."



Unfinished Business

By
Paul Douglas

From address by the U. S. Senator from Illinois before the convention of the Illinois State Federation of Labor.

CAREFUL observers of our country today assert that as a people we are complacent, contented with "peace" and "prosperity," and incapable of getting all tied-up over anything more than the World Series, or the \$64,000 question—which of course a Marine got nicely in hand.

There it, to be sure, real prosperity for many. Our nation is rich in resources and in its democratic traditions. The stock market has been soaring. Our standard of living is at an all-time high. And our reputation in the world is better than a year ago. There is a great deal of which we can be justly proud and for which we can be thankful.

BUT this is not the whole picture. There are forces and conditions that defeat and destroy the principles of brotherhood on which your organization is founded, and which are the cornerstones of the American way. Let me mention a few:

SLUMS, reaching out each year to blight the lives of more millions of American families and produce more so-called juvenile delinquents;

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS for low-income groups, so inadequate that they are barely one-third of what Senator Taft supported six years ago—and they would be even punier if this Administration had its way;

FARM PROGRAMS, that leave the farmer with a declining income, and food surpluses unused by hungry people here and abroad;

MIGRANT WORKERS, hopelessly following the harvest, with few legal protections, and no job or family security;

POCKETS OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT dotted across the country—as in the coal fields of Southern Illinois—with measures like my bill to relieve this distress with jobs ignored or opposed by the Executive Branch, and programs for coal export announced with a fanfare in 1954, an election year, now cut back and canceled;

RACIAL, RELIGIOUS AND NATIONALITY DISCRIMINATION still barring the path to equality of educational, job and political opportunities.

THE UNCHANGING THREAT of the Iron-fisted Communist tyranny, which behind the current smiles maintains its aggressive aim to communize the world, but hopes to persuade the outside world to relax its unity and its guard while making no real concessions to freedom.

THE WILLINGNESS of some political

figures to make capital out of "peace" and for the sake of votes to kill the American people into the mistaken feeling that the road to peace is simple, cheap and right at hand;

LOOSE CHARGES of disloyalty and subversion (largely made for political advantage) still clouding the reputation and future of many innocent persons and confusing instead of clarifying the nation's protection against real Communists;

HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED PROPAGANDA drives of the oil and gas industry to free the big gas producers from federal regulation (largely to give to those consumers may be made to pay from \$200 to \$600 million more per year for gas);

SCHOOL HOUSES so defective or entirely lacking for want of federal aid, that millions of our growing school population are being poorly educated;

THAT is a long list. But that is an important one. The fact that many Americans are today complacent does not change these facts and conditions. It does not relieve us of the need to face up to these facts and act.

We learned in 1929—hope—the folly of smugness and self-satisfaction—of ignorance, apathy and inaction.

No nation or movement can attain true greatness unless it keeps alive a sharp and warm sensitivity to the situations that create human suffering and need, and that threaten to concentrate economic and political power in the hands of a relatively few or in a Communist tyranny. Despite complacency, I hope we can renew our efforts to meet these needs.

LABOR on the whole is concerned with the general welfare as well as with its own interests. Labor has backed us up in our struggle to conserve our natural resources, to protect the health of the community, to develop the capacities of the children, to protect consumers against gouging by selfish monopolists and slick operators.

Many people are asking whether the forthcoming AFL-CIO merger does not threaten dangers for the community by giving labor much greater power. That of course largely depends upon the uses to which this power is put. But people should realize that the interests of labor are not opposed to those of society, but rather are probably the most important part of society itself.